

ABORTION DECLINES IN UNITED STATES

January 27, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) -

According to statistics published this month from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, the number of legal abortions has reached the lowest point in 14 years. Since 1990, the number of abortions has been declining at a rate of roughly five percent per year. In 1994, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 1,267,415 legal abortions were reported. In 1980, the figure was 1,297,606.

"Experts" do not agree about the reasons for this decline. Some cite increased use of condoms and an increase in education about birth control as the chief reason for the decline, but we have seen no evidence that this is true. Others say it is possible that since there is less stigma today of unmarried women having children, some women in this condition are having their babies rather than aborting them. Again, this is only a guess.

Some of the facts relative to and associated with this decline are as follows:

- * There has been a shift in attitude toward the practice of abortion. According to an article by Tracy Seipel in the Knight-Ridder Newspapers (January 21, 1997), support for abortion rights among college freshmen declined for the fourth straight year. Only 56.3 percent support keeping abortion legal; whereas, in 1990, almost 65 percent of college students supported abortion.

- * More than 500 U.S. hospitals and clinics have stopped offering abortion-related services since the early 1980s. In the United States, eight in 10 counties have no abortion provider (Ibid.).

- * There has been a massive groundswell of encouragement and support in recent years for teenagers to remain sexually pure until marriage. Rusty Thomas, a spokesman for Operation Rescue, notes that "a lot of teens are saying, 'I'm going to wait until I am married to have sex.'"

- * In spite of the efforts of the mainstream media to censor and slander its activities and to block its influence, the efforts of Pro-Life groups and hundreds of local pregnancy crisis centers across the nation have had a large and very positive impact in this matter. Thousands of babies have been rescued from the abortion mills. The opinions of tens of thousands of people have been influenced by the efforts of those who have lifted their voices on behalf of the unborn.